

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 026836

R 051420Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1078

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS IZMIR 443

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE MARS NSP RALLY

1. NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY LEADER ERBAKAN HELD RALLY IN IZMIR
OCT. 4. ATTENDANCE UNDOUBTEDLY DISAPPOINTED ERBAKAN SINCE CROWD
OF APPROXIMATELY 2000 INCLUDED AT LEAST 500 STUDENT HECKLERS AND
MANY CURIOSITY SEEKERS FROM OTHER PARTIES. (AT LEAST 10 LOCAL
JP LEADERS ATTENDED RALLY TO ASSESS COMPETITION.)
2. ERBAKAN ARRIVED LATE AND PRELIMINARY SPEAKERS WERE HECKLED
UNMERCIFULLY. STUDENTS BEGAN WITH CHANT "ERBAKAN FOR PRIME
MINISTER" AND AS SOON AS CROWD JOINED IN CHANT SWITCHED TO "WE WERE
JOKING". OTHER CHANTS FOLLOWED, INCLUDING ON ONE OCCASION

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STANDARD RPP SLOGAN "POPULIST, ECEVIT".

3. AFTER ABOUT 35 MINUTES POLICE DECIDED INTERVENE AND WADED INTO
CROWD WITH RUBBER TRUNCHEONS FLYING. NSP FAITHFUL, MOST OF WHOM
WERE MIDDLE AGED OR OVER AND WHO HAD STOICALLY WITHSTOOD HECKLING
UNTIL THIS POINT, DECIDED TO HELP POLICE. ACCORDING TO LOCAL
STAFF MEMBER WHO ATTENDED RALLY SOME STUDENTS RECEIVED FAIRLY
SEVERE THRASHING AT COMBINED HANDS OF POLICE AND NSP STALWARTS.
REMAINING STUDENTS QUICKLY DISPERSED. PERHAPS 5 STUDENTS INJURED
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IN FRACAS, BUT NONE SERIOUSLY. FIFTEEN WERE ARRESTED BUT

SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED.

4. ERBAKAN ARRIVED AFTER DUST-UP AND GAVE HIS SCHEDULED SPEECH WHICH WAS MOST NOTABLE FOR ITS FAILURE TO MENTION ATATURK AMONG THE HEROES OF TURKISH HISTORY.

5. BY ANY STANDARDS NSP RALLY FAILURE. VIOLENCE, WHICH MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO RPP, COULD HURT ECEVIT, BUT IS NOT LIKELY TO HELP ERBAKAN WHO PROBABLY WISHES HE HAD STAYED IN MORE CONSERVATIVE INTERIOR.

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